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UNCLAS THE HAGUE 002399

SIPDIS

SA/AR, EUR/UBI, EB/IFD/ODF

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: AF EAID NL PREL EUN

SUBJECT: AFGHAN AID: DUTCH PLEDGE EUR 82.5 MILLION OVER THREE YEARS

REF: A. STATE 258067

1B. THE HAGUE 02321

11. Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation Agnes van Ardenne announced at the September 21 Dubai international donors meeting that the Netherlands would contribute EUR 82.5 million (USD 95 million) to Afghanistan reconstruction over the period of 2003-2006. The money will be directed to the Afghan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF). Ms. Marit van Zomeren of the MFA's Southern Asia Division provided the following breakdown of the Dutch pledge:

-- 2003 -- EUR 35 million (EUR 17.5 million of this total already distributed since Sept 21 announcement)
-- 2004 -- EUR 17.5 million
-- 2005 -- EUR 15 million
-- 2006 -- EUR 15 million

12. In addition to these ARTF pledges, the Netherlands may also provide a small amount of bilateral funding to a handful of select projects (ref B) in Afghanistan, but the MFA has not released any details.

SOBEL